

CITY NEWS DESK

Introducing Fire Chief Tim Fuller!

The City is pleased to introduce our new Fire Chief. Chief Fuller began his career with the St. Paul Department of Fire and Safety Services as a firefighter in 1971. He advanced rapidly through all officer ranks to become Chief of the Department in 1991. During his twelve years as Chief, he presided over significant changes in fire and safety service delivery and faced the challenges of dwindling resources with a creative and innovative style of leadership.

During his tenure, Chief Fuller prepared and executed a \$41 million operating budget and oversaw 500 employees, including 400 sworn personnel. Fire Department staff included members of more than a dozen unions.

Chief Fuller holds a bachelors degree from Metropolitan State University and has completed the four-year Executive Fire Officer Program at

the United States Fire Administration National Fire Academy and a Fellowship in the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Welcome Chief Fuller!

Permit Center Improvements

Online permitting: Contractors can skip a trip to City Hall and apply for and receive simple electrical, mechanical and plumbing permits over the internet. The service has been very well-received, with about one third of all building permits in the fourth quarter of 2004 issued over the internet. Online permitting joins other web-based permit resources, including permit status checks and access to application forms. The City expects to add more online services this year.

Improving efficiency and timeliness of building and land-use permits:

Our goal is to strengthen service and reduce costs for the City and applicants. We are pleased with our progress: a

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers, but a car parked in front of your mailbox will.

The U.S. Postal Service needs a clear path to deliver the mail.

If you want those cards and letters to keep on coming, don't block your mailbox.

Chamber of Commerce Blue Ribbon Task Force report in late 2004 concluded that "The City has made great improvement. ...The result has been a decrease in time through the review process..."

Other improvements being considered:

- Revise the City's permit website to allow staff to better respond to the most frequent citizen and applicant requests.
- Add more permits that can be paid for by credit card.
- Collaborate with other cities in the region to standardize the steps involved in the more complicated permit review processes and to set common timeline goals for each step.

